



**Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 708**

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**Hearing Date:** February 24, 2005  
**Committee On:** Natural Resources

**Introducer(s):** (Kremer, Beutler, Bourne, Synowiecki)  
**Title:** Change provisions relating to the domestic use of ground water

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File  
Advanced to General File with Amendments  
X Indefinitely Postponed

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**Vote Results:**

6	Yes	Senators Hudkins, Kopplin, Kremer, McDonald, Schrock, Stuhr
0	No	
1	Present, not voting	Senator Smith
1	Absent	Senator Louden

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**Proponents:**

Senator Bob Kremer  
Mary Sommermeyer  
Gary Person

Jordan Ball  
Deborah Crago  
John Bingham  
Finley Degraffenried  
Steve Krajewski

**Opponents:**

Jay Rempe  
John Thorburn  
John Turnbull  
Jasper Fanning  
Kent Miller  
Glenn Johnson  
Rod Horn

**Representing:**

Introducer  
League of Nebraska Municipalities  
City of Sidney; Sidney/Cheyenne County  
Economic Development; Nebraska Economic  
Development Association; Nebraska Chamber of  
Commerce and Industry  
City of Sidney  
City of Kimball  
City of McCook  
City of Bridgeport  
City of Ogallala

**Representing:**

Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation  
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts  
Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District  
Upper Republican Natural Resources District  
Twin Platte Natural Resources District  
Nebraska Water Resources Association  
South Platte Natural Resources District

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**Neutral:**  
None

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 708 does the following:

- Section 1      Adds a new definition of domestic use.  
(30)      Domestic use means any use of water that is commonly associated with human activities that occur in or around a residence or place of business. It specifically excludes golf courses, industrial, manufacturing, or agricultural applications of water.
- Section 2      Removes the exception for a stay on any new water well for emergency situations and replaces that exception with one that would allow new surface water diversions and water wells for one or more domestic uses.
- Section 3      Prohibits an integrated management plan to require offset or to require mitigation for any increase in withdrawals of ground water for one or more domestic uses.
- Section 4      Creates an exception for obtaining a permit to drill a well in a management area for wells constructed to provide water for one or more domestic uses.
- Requires the public water supplier to report the amount of water pumped by each well used in the previous calendar year to the district and to the Department of Natural Resources.
- Section 5      Prohibits a natural resources district from adopting an allocation system and a system of rotation for use of ground water withdrawn for domestic use.
- Prohibits a natural resources district from limiting or preventing increases in the consumptive use of ground water for domestic uses.
- Prohibits the district from requiring approval of transfers if the transfer is for domestic use.
- Section 6      Changes “domestic purpose” to “domestic use” regarding transfers of ground water outside the area of the stay to inside the area of the stay.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

None

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Senator Ed Schrock, Chairperson